

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has herein cancelled claims 1-4, 6, 7, and 15. Applicant has previously withdrawn claims 10-14 and 16. Applicant has herein amended claim 5. Claims 5, 8, and 9 will remain in the application after entry of this amendment. Allowable subject matter has been found by the Examiner. No additional fee is due. Applicant hereby requests reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks made below.

The Examiner has objected to claims 5 and 6 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim that would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claim 5, following Examiner's suggestions, and cancelled claim 6.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 7, and 15 as lacking novelty under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), or in the alternative, as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103, in view of U.S. Patent 4,363,340 to Kimura. While not necessarily agreeing with the Examiner, Applicant has cancelled all of the claims so rejected.

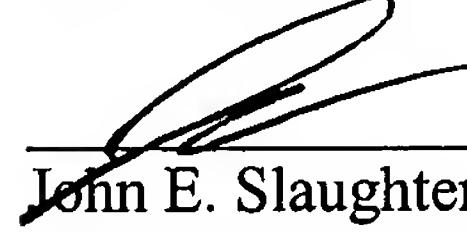
Applicant notes that the Examiner has stated that claim 5 is allowed, subject to being rewritten in independent form as previously discussed, and that claims 8 and 9 are allowed. Applicant greatly appreciates the Examiner's attention to and assistance with this application. Being that the non-allowed claims have been cancelled, the present application should now be in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance is hereby requested. If the Examiner has any questions or anticipates not allowing the application due to some matter that Applicant has overlooked, a telephone interview is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 4, 2005